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end
attaching means, forming holes in at least one of the first and second attaching means, and
inserting screws into at least one of the first and second attaching means.--

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Non-Final Office Action of December 13, 2002 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-14 and add new claims 15-67. Accordingly, claims 15-67 remain pending within the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-13 of prior U.S. Pat. No. 5,835,139; rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-65 of prior U.S. Pat. No. 5,926,237; and rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-15 of prior U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,537. The rejection of these claims is traversed and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments provided herewith.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to

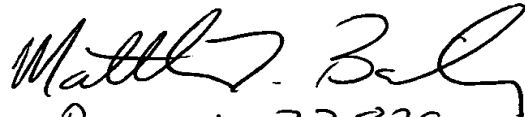
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Group Art Unit: 2871

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complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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